



## **Financial Aid Process**

**Renaissance Montessori School** is committed to providing quality education at as reasonable a cost as possible. Nevertheless, our tuition is beyond the means of some interested families. In keeping with Dr. Montessori's philosophy that all children could profit from exposure to this method, we have established a financial assistance fund to provide aid to families who otherwise could not offer this educational advantage to their children. All financial assistance is based on financial need as well as the family's and student's ability to benefit from and contribute to our school's programs.

**Availability of Funds:** Renaissance Montessori School's Financial Aid funds are generated from our annual fundraisers. At this time we do not receive any outside funds. **Please realize that all possible family resources should be considered before applying for financial aid, including extended family, friends, the community, and all other sources.** Qualifying for financial aid is based on each family's **ability, not willingness**, to pay the School's tuition. Financial Aid will be distributed as equitably as possible among those who qualify.

The final award is based upon the number of applicants, the total amount of Financial Aid funds available, the recommendations of TAD's and the family's most recent tax return. **It is understood that Renaissance Montessori School is not obligated to award the amounts recommended by TAD's.** Renaissance Montessori School reserves the right to adjust or withdraw financial aid based on information not reported or misrepresented during the application process.

Families are not guaranteed funds indefinitely. Should family financial circumstances change it is expected that the school will be notified so that funds may be made available for another family. Annual application for funds is required.

### **Requirements for consideration for Financial Aid**

1. Read TAD's User Guide.
2. Application to be completed online at <http://mytads.com/a/renaissancemontfortmyers>. A link will be sent once Renaissance application for admissions is received and approved.
3. A personal letter to the Renaissance Financial Aid Committee describing your reasons for applying for tuition assistance, your volunteer history and/or intentions and your commitment to Renaissance Montessori School completed on TAD's website.
4. A copy of the most recent, signed tax returns must be submitted to TAD's. **Final award of financial aid is pending receipt of current tax returns.**

For separated or divorced parents, the student's custodial parent and custodial parent's spouse should complete the TAD's application. For non-custodial parents, a separate form must be completed by the non-custodial parent and non-custodial parents' spouse. **The availability of complete information from both parents is essential to assure as fair an assessment of the family contribution.** Please refer to Special procedures for divorced or separated parents in the TAD's User guide for further details.

**Analysis and Award of Financial Aid:** TAD's analyzes the application in complete confidentiality based on standard method of computation used by independent schools nationwide. Once TAD's has completed its analysis, a Report of Financial Need is furnished to Renaissance Montessori School. This information, along with a personal letter to the Financial Aid Committee and tax return, is utilized to determine eligibility and the amount of the grant.

**Confidentiality:** All application forms, letters, tax returns, and other related papers are held in the strictest of confidence by the Renaissance Montessori School administration and board. Renaissance Montessori School feels strongly that the success of its financial aid program depends heavily of the confidentiality of all families' financial aid files.

**Non Discriminatory Policy:** Renaissance School, Inc. admits students of any race, color, national, and ethnic origin to all of the rights, privileges, programs, and activities generally accorded or made available to students at the school. It does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national or ethnic origin in administration of its educational policies, scholarships and loan programs, athletic, and other school administered programs.

**Financial Aid Criteria:** The four criteria listed below will have the most weight, in equal parts, in our selection of financial aid recipients. Other unusual and/or extenuating circumstances may also be considered at the discretion of the Financial Aid Committee.

1. Financial Need.
2. Staff Child
3. Sibling/Returning Student
4. Family Commitment/Support of Renaissance School's Philosophy and Mission including consistent participation in school functions.
5. Family Volunteer Services to Renaissance School

No application for assistance will be considered without the Head of School's signature and application for admission to Renaissance Montessori School.

**Family Requirements:** In consideration for financial assistance each family is required to fulfill the following responsibilities and obligations:

- Consistent participation in all school meetings, events and functions
- Full participation in all Fundraising efforts
- Adherence to all school policies and procedures
- Full support of Renaissance School's philosophy, mission and vision
- Full participation in Renaissance School's parent volunteer program; to be determined with the Head of School with a suggested amount of time being 10 hours per each \$1,000.00 that was awarded, however, any amount of time given back is greatly appreciated.

**Notification of Award:** Families that have submitted all required and completed documentation will be notified by email.